

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JIDDA 04050 080649Z

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 TRSE-00 SP-02 AID-05 NSC-05

CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06

COME-00 /075 W

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R 080617Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1478

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PASS: TREASURY FOR BOWDEN

E.O.: 11652: N/A

TAGS: USSAEC, SA, US

SUBJ: JOINT COMMISSION: MEETING WITH FAISEL BASHIR OF CPO

SUMMARY: EMBASSY LIAISON OFFICER MCARTHUR AND TREASURY REP. MCFADDEN MET WITH FAISEL BASHIR, DEPUTY VICE PRESIDENT OF THE CENTRAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION (CPO) JUNE 4 TO DISCUSS THE FIVE YEAR PLAN AND APPRAISE CPO OF CURRENT STATE OF JOINT COMMISSION ACTIVITIES. THE PLAN IS NOT YET AVAILABLE BUT A COPY WILL BE PROVIDED TO USG AS SOON AS IT IS READY. BASHIR AGREED TO ARRANGE BRIEFING FOR USG OFFICIALS ON PLAN. END SUMMARY.

1. U.S. REPS NOTED BADR PROMISE TO PROVIDE BOWDEN WITH ADVANCE COPY OF PLAN. BASHIR SAID SORRY BUT IT IS NOT READY. AS SOON AS COPY IS AVAILABLE, WE WILL BE PROVIDED ONE. THIS MAY BE BETWEEN ONE AND TWO MONTHS.

2. IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST FOR A SUMMARY OF THE PLAN, BASHIR REPLIED THAT HE DID NOT KNOW WHETHER THIS WOULD BE AVAILABLE. HOWEVER, CPO HAS PREPARED A FIFTY SLIDE

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PAGE 02 JIDDA 04050 080649Z

PRESENTATION OF THE PLAN. COPY OF THIS CAN BE MADE AVAILABLE

TO US.

3. BASHIR READILY AGREED TO SUGGESTION THAT CPO GIVE PRESENTATION ON PLAN TO EMBASSY AND JOINT COMMISSION PERSONNEL. WE WILL TRY TO ARRANGE THIS SO THAT AMBASSADOR AND BOWDEN CAN PARTICIPATE IN RIYADH.

4. BASHIR ADVISED THAT CHASE WORLD INFORMATION IS CONTEMPLATING PREPARING A SUMMARY OF THE PLAN FOR PUBLICATION. IF DONE, IT WILL PROBABLY NOT BE READY BEFORE NOVEMBER.

5. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION CONCERNING THE INTERGRATION OF THE PLAN AND THE BUDGET, BASHIR INDICATED THAT THERE WILL BE SOME DISCREPANCIES BETWEEN THE PLAN AND THE NEXT BUDGET (U.S. FY1975) BUT THAT THEY WILL BE MINOR. A JOINT COMMITTEE HAS BEEN FORMED BETWEEN CPO AND MOF AT THE DEPUTY MINISTER LEVEL TO COORDINATE PLANNING AND BUDGETING. BASHIR ALSO REPORTED THAT THE PLAN WILL BE REVISED OVER THE FIVE YEAR PERIOD TO REFLECT CHANGING CIRCUMSTANCES. THE BUDGET SHOULD BE READY BY THE BEGINNING OF THE FISCAL YEAR, I.E. JULY.

6. IN A WIDE-RANGING DISCUSSION ON JOINT COMMISSION ACTIVITIES BASHIR REPEATED THE STANDARD CPO POSITION THAT THE JOINT COMMISSION MOVED TOO SLOWLY IN ITS INITIAL STAGES AND WAS LESS EFFECTIVE THAN ANALOGOUS ACTIVITIES OF THE GERMANS WHO CAME WITH TOP GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND BUSINESS LEADERS READY TO LOCK-UP MAJOR DEALS. HOWEVER, HIS GENERAL ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE COMMISSION SEEMED POSITIVE AND HE ACKNOWLEDGED THE IMPORTANCE OF PROGRAMS IN AREAS SUCH AS VOCATIONAL TRAINING.
AKINS

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